Edward Albee’s

The Goat
or, Who is Sylvia?

Directed by Melissa Cogswell

January 7th - 15th, 2011
Arsenal Center for the Arts
Watertown, MA
Edward Albee’s
The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?
 Directed by Melissa Cogswell

CAST

Martin  David Policar
Stevie   Janet Ferreri
Billy    Erin Gilligan
Ross     Bill Barnert

CREW

Producer  Jake Scaltreto
Stage Manager  Amy Lehrmitt
Set Designer  Nate Kruback
Costume Designer  Coriana Hunt Swartz
Lighting Designer  Adam Teti
Property Manager  Maddi Chapin
Special Props Design  Nate Kruback
Light Board Operator  Rebecca Dunham
Master Carpenter  Leigh Downes
Poster Designer  Jennifer Jeremantowicz
Original Artwork  Amelia Fountain
Build Crew  Rebecca Dunham
             Kevin Kordis
             Sean Paul
             Jake Scaltreto

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT


SPECIAL NOTES

Please note that during the performance objects will be broken on stage, and patrons are advised to be cautious when entering or exiting the theatre. For your personal safety, we ask that you remain in your seat at the start of intermission so we may clear the stage of any debris.

Originally produced on Broadway by Elizabeth Ireland McCann, Daryl Roth, Carol Shorenstein Hays, Terry Allen Kramer, Scott Rudin, Bob Boyett, Scott Nederlanders, Sine/ZPI.

The Goat or, Who is Sylvia? is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
The work that any artist does, me included, is a public presentation of a specific facet of the artist. It is a chance to present to the world a specific point of view, interpretation of an experience, or opinion. Often, as is the case with my experience with The Goat or, Who is Sylvia? it is a chance to process an experience, both intellectually and emotionally, in order to come to a better understanding of the self.

I have lived my life with a worldview forced upon me by biology, or experience, which is unlike most people. Nine years ago I was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, a turbulent, debilitating, and often deadly mental illness. Up until recently, this was not something I spoke of; in fact it was a source of deep shame and fear, something I worked very hard to hide from the world.

Recently, due in large part to this production, I have come to realize that who I am, though it may be seen in the eyes of some as “sick” or “crazy” is not something to be ashamed of, rather it is something to embrace. I have a full comprehension of Martin’s anguish when the world simply cannot understand what he feels and why he feels it; I am personally acquainted with the pain that Stevie feels because something entirely out of her control has entered her life, destroying what she knows and loves. Living with bi-polar has granted me a chance to face these emotions and come out the other side, certainly not unscathed, but alive and able to share my tale. This is one way for me to share that tale. Working with the text of The Goat and the four talented actors you see before you has given me a chance to process, learn about, understand, and now share a part of myself that has always existed, but often been denied.

I also owe many, many thanks. My experiences made this creatively possible, but so many others were involved in bringing it to life. Thank you to my amazing cast. You are brilliant. Thank you to my stage manager, Ames. You keep me balanced and caffeinated and I cannot imagine directing without you. Thank you to the production team and designers who made filet mignon on a McDonald’s budget. Your creativity is inspiring. Thank you to my parents, Wanda and Brian, your unwavering love and support is why I am still alive today. Finally, thank you, Josh; I think you’re great.

**Cast Bios**

**David Policar (Martin)** - David Policar is delighted to be part of his first Flat Earth production, and to add “zoophilic architect” to his list of theatrical portrayals. It is an ecstasy and a purity and a love of an unimaginable kind, and it relates to nothing whatever, to nothing that can be related to. As always, he thanks his partner -- wait, no, that’s “husband” now! -- Paulo for putting up with him.

**Janet Ferreri (Stevie)** - Janet is beyond thrilled to be playing Stevie in Flat Earth’s production of The Goat. Past shows include Mame (Mame), Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman), Six Degrees of Separation (Ouisa), The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (Jean), Company (Joanne), 42nd Street (Dorothy Brock), Nine (Liliane LaFleur), Anything Goes (Reno), and into the Woods (Witch).

**Erin William Gilligan (Billy)** - Erin is thrilled to be making his debut with Flat Earth Theatre. Recent Boston roles include Quills and Durang/Durang. Some of Erin’s favorite roles have been Trinculo in The Tempest, Bottom in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Ethan in The Altruists, and Happy in Death of a Salesman. As always, a huge thank you to family and friends who always make the stress of doing a show on top of living a life that much easier. It is only when we have stability that we can really relish the time to play. Enjoy!

**Bill Barnet (Ross)** - Bill Barnert was last seen as multiple characters in the three episodes of Atreus, Inc. at ImprovBoston in Cambridge. Regional productions include Sondheim’s Merrily We Roll Along (Theatre To Go, Stoneham), and How To Succeed in Business... (Wakefield Repertory Theatre). Bill sang with the BGMC for ten years. And like Ross, Bill has been a television interviewer, for PrideTime and SpeakOut TV. Someday, he hopes to voice the plant in Little Shop of Horrors. And he makes a much better uncle than you’d guess from his role in The Goat. (Right, Andrea? Aaron? Ricky?)
SPECIAL THANKS

Arsenal Center for the Arts
Church of the Good Shepherd
Martin Holbrook
Boston Light & Sound
Dan Beedy
Dawn & David Scaltreto
Kathy & Craig Lehrmritt
Josh Michel
Justus Perry
James Rossi
Shauna Gordon-McKeon
Kevin Kordis

Additional set dressing courtesy of
Linda DiCarlo
Trinkets and Treasures
Newton, MA

Extra Special Thanks To Our Pantheon Members:

Joseph Scaltreto
Sarah Smith & Fred Perry
Stephen Burgay
Mark Steadman

Flat Earth is a proud member of the

Flat Earth theatre
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